

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, UR,US

SUBJ: PRAVDA COMMENTATOR ON JACKSON, JEWISH EMIGRATION

REF: MOSCOW 098

1. SUMMARY: AN UNUSUALLY SOPHISTICATED PICTURE OF SEN. HENRY JACKSON EMERGES IN JAN. 10 PRAVDA ARTICLE BY COMMENTATOR SERGEY VISHNEVSKY, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM TRIP TO U.S. AT A SPASO FILM SHOWING SAME EVENING, VISHNEVSKY DISCUSSED JEWISH EMIGRATION ISSUE, A SUBJECT WHICH HE HAS NOT YET AIRED IN PRAVDA. END SUMMARY.

2. AS IN HIS FIRST ARTICLE (REFTEL)VISHNEVSKY TAKES THE AMERICAN PULSE ON DETENTE, THIS TIME BY FOCUSING ON SENATORS FULBRIGHT AND JACKSON. HE CITES THEIR REMARKS AT PACEM IN TERRIS CONFERENCE AND ROUNDS OUT THE PICTURE BY CALLING ON EACH IN HIS SENATE OFFICE (JACKSON EVEN TOOK VISHNEVSKY TO LUNCH IN THE SENATE DINING ROOM, A GESTURE WHICH LATTER DESCRIBES AS MFN FOR PRAVDA).

3. WHILE VISHNEVSKY CLEARLY HAS LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR JACKSON'S VIEWS, HE EXPLORES THEIR ORIGIN WITH JOURNALISTIC PROFESSIONALISM. NOTING JACKSON'S PRESIDENTIAL AMBITIONS, HE IDENTIFIES JACKSON'S

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ASSISTANT RICHARD PERLO AS THE "BRAIN TRUST" BEHIND THE SENATOR'S

FOREIGN POLICY SPEECHES. HE FINDS PERLO TOO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH "ZIONISTS" AND DISPARAGES PERLO FOR PRETENDING TO EXPERTISE IN SOVIET AFFAIRS WITHOUT EVER HAVING VISITED USSR. ANOTHER EXPLANATION FOR JACKSON'S ATTITUDES IS HIS CLOSENESS TO "FIERCE ANTICOMMUNIST" GEORGE MEANY. FINALLY, QUOTING ROBERT MCNAMARA, VISHNEVSKY CONCLUDES THAT JACKSON "STILL BELIEVES IN THE MAGIC OF MILITARY POWER."

4. TREATMENT OF FULBRIGHT IS PREDICTABLY FLATTERING (SOVIET PRESS RECENTLY PAID HIM UNUSUAL HOMAGE OF ANNOUNCING HIS DECISION TO SEEK-RE-ELECTION). IN DRAWING A BALANCE BETWEEN THE TWO SENATORS, VISHNEVSKY SEES JACKSON'S STRENGTH AS TEMPORARY, FORTUITOUS AND NOT INDICATIVE OF REAL SENTIMENT IN U.S., WHILE EVEN IN CONGRESS NOT A DAY GOES BY WITHOUT ADDITIONAL CONFIRMATION OF THE "LIMITED CAPABILITIES OF IMPERIALISM."

5. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, VISHNEVSKY MENTIONED DETAILS OF DISCUSSIONS HE HAD WITH OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS, WHICH COULD FORM BASIS FOR FUTURE ARTICLES. HE SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO CONVERSATION ON SOVIET JEWRY WITH SENATOR JAVITS AND UNIDENTIFIED SENIOR OFFICIAL OF STATE DEPARTMENT. VISHNEVSKY CRITICIZED JAVITS FOR LACK OF PRECISION IN DISCUSSING ISSUE AND ASSERTED THAT DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL HAD STATED THERE ONLY NINE OR TEN HARD CORE CASES WHICH NEEDED TO BE RESOLVED IN REMOVING EMIGRATION QUESTIONS AS IRRITANT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS.

6. VISHNEVSKY STRESSED THAT ONE SHOULD LOOK AT OVERALL ISSUE IN ASSESSING PROGRESS MADE ON JEWISH EMIGRATION. HE SAID TREND IS FAVORABLE WITH AVERAGE OF ABOUT 3,500 JEWS EMIGRATING DURING RECENT MONTHS. EMPHASIZING THE COMMITMENT SENIOR SOVIET LEADERS HAVE TO PERMITTING EMIGRATION OF JEWS WHO WANT TO LEAVE, VISHNEVSKY POINTED TO FACT THAT EMIGRATION CONTINUED DESPITE OUTBREAK OF MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. WHEN ASKED TO EXPLAIN ANOMALY OF REFUSAL OF EXIT PERMISSION TO BALLET DANCER PANOV AND HIS WIFE, VISHNEVSKY SAID HE SIMPLY COULD NOT UNDERSTANT OR EXPLAIN MOTIVES IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE. VISHNEVSKY THEN REITERATED EARLIER POINT ABOUT TOP LEVEL COMMITMENT TO CONTINUED EMIGRATION BY STATING THAT AS SENIOR MEMBER OF STAFF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE PAPER, HE AWARE OF POLICY ATTITUDES OF LEADERSHIP.DUBS

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